



Vol. 4, No. 1, JANUARY 2022

- New Release: *Madam in Lace*
- Author Spotlight: Eva Lehmann-Bauer

## From the Editor



Happy New Year everyone!

Here's wishing that everyone's new year is filled with blessings – and **lots** of great books! And of course, the more historical fiction there is in there, the better.

I know from what I'm seeing among some of my author friends, there are lots of wonderful sounding new books on the horizon. Never fear, dear readers, there will be enough to keep your TBR piles burgeoning.

This month we're speaking with Eva Lehmann-Bauer about her book, *Hertha's Story*. It's set in WW2, but I think you'll be surprised with its unusual plotlines. And even better, is what I learned the proceeds of her book are benefiting. Keep reading to see what she has to say about her book, her research, and more!

Stay tuned—next month we'll be chatting with Pamela Nowak!

*Trisha*

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## New Releases



### [Madam in Lace](#)

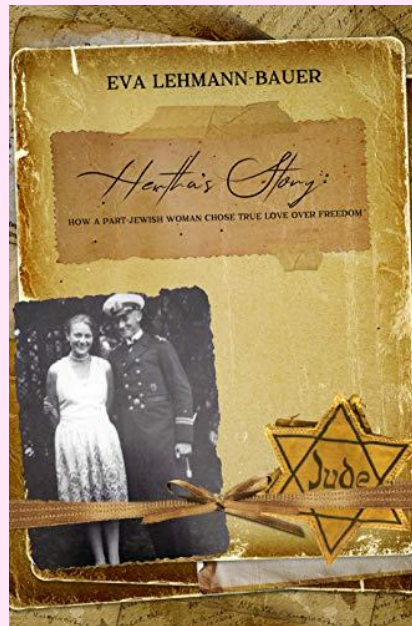
**Gini Grossenbacher**

***With each question, her temperature rose. Let the guards come. How dare she be used as a pawn in this game.***

Montmartre, Paris, 1857, Desperate to find her missing mother, San Francisco's Celeste Bazin arrives in her native France only to take up with the captivating Carlo di Rudio and a band of revolutionaries who wish to overthrow Emperor Napoleon III. If she acts as a courier for the group, they will take her where rumor says her mother has been living. She journeys with the ruggedly handsome Odeon de through checkpoints thick with imperial guards, secret agents, and devious spies. The further she travels the more she realizes the power of her mother's secrets and the web of possible lies that entangle her. Only when she joins the plot to assassinate the emperor does she realize the impact of lies and the depth of love that has no national boundaries.

Book #3 in The American Madams series.

## Author Spotlight: Eva Lehmann-Bauer



**Hello Eva Lehmann-Bauer! We're excited to chat with you today about your writing. Your book *Hertha's Story* is available now in ebook, and later this year will be available in print too. Can you tell us a little bit about *Hertha's Story*?**

*Hertha's Story* really is quite a complex emotional novel. It is based upon 'the girl Heydrich dumped for Lina', from his Reichsmarine days. Much of the story is all true, Heydrich really was dismissed from the Reichsmarine for abandoning his Prussian-Jewish family – Hertha and their quarter-Jewish baby daughter, Anna. He even was arrogant towards the Military Tribunal Court (Reichsmarine) panel (which her father attended the proceedings), and tried to pin the blame on Hertha. Heydrich kept in contact with his daughter Anna her entire life well, up to his death in June 1942.

I didn't want this novel to be another one of those 'run of the mill' Holocaust novels, but really explore how it would have felt for a part-Jewish woman to be in Hitler's Germany, and show just what true, unconditional love could do in a time when Jews were losing their Jewish identity, and how Hertha watched it all unfold under her very eyes, not mention always standing by the love of her life who she knew was not innocent for his actions. She follows him all the way until his death, and when you reflect upon the novel, you realise they had a true, unconditional love bond that not even Hitler or the SS could break.

**Writing about World War II events isn't always the easiest era. How did you find that writing about what happened during those years affected you as an author?**

I got really upset when I read that Jewish woman (particularly in Germany) who hid as Jews in exile, aborted their pregnancies out of fear of being discovered that they were Jewish. Hitler considered abortions 'crime against the body and the state', considering he was very highly strung on creating a perfect Aryan nation. I don't believe that this crime would have extended to Jews or anyone he named an 'undesirable' but seeing as I made Hertha's character masquerade as a German Christian woman, I really wanted to bring that out into the open. The struggles she faced choosing to abort her second pregnancy (her first was Anna, their daughter) to Heydrich, and also on how to tell him. I thought it was too important to be left out, so I incorporated it into the story.

Also, I wanted to add how when you take this drastic action because of the events happening around you, you begin to question all those things that Hertha questioned, such as motherhood and sacrificing whatever you could for your unborn children, even if it were so they could live in a better world than Hitler's. Any woman who chooses to make these difficult decisions whether it was in Hitler's Germany or the current present era of the world, has my highest admiration.

**What sort of research did you need to do before writing *Hertha's Story*?**

I already had quite a good grip on WWII and Genocide/Holocaust studies before I wrote 'Hertha's Story'. But there was some research I did where I contacted Bulovka Hospital's medical records department to access their medical archives on Heydrich's medical care (to try and form the plot outline for the scenes in there), that turned into some 'yo-yo' research quite quickly. They claimed they had nothing left from the Germans after they took with them over 40 tonnes of files when they fled Prague in 1945, then a representative for the hospital said in an article that was published by another historian around 2003-ish, that the flood of 2002 wiped out all their medical archives. But in the end, that didn't matter because I found some comprehensive medical articles concerning Heydrich's care and also a book published with real, eye-witness accounts of people who were really there in that hospital that sufficed.

Also, I watched the hit Netflix show 'Charité at War' which showcased the Charité Hospital in Berlin during the war to get an idea of how hospitals worked back then. There was a scene in one episode where a man came in with his young boy who had been hit by fragments of a grenade shell, and they find out he is Jewish, because the father was hiding two Yellow 'Jude' stars in his pocket. They eventually treated the son and kept them in the bomb shelter while the Russians infiltrated the city, and the Russians took pity on the Jews. Those Yellow Stars saved their lives and the lives of anyone who was in that hospital bomb shelter with the children, and I'd like to think that out of all the persecution, those yellow stars saved more lives than lost, because for instance in Denmark, blonde haired non-Jews began wearing the Star as to confuse

the Danish Gestapo as to who was Jewish and who wasn't. Over 90% of Danish Jews were saved via various methods including this one.

**Tell us about one of your favorite characters from one of your books.**

I have a lot of favourite characters from the book, but I would have to say that Hertha was my favourite character. Jewish women are known for being quite bold, obstinate and spontaneous, but making Hertha into a character where she secretly attended Torah readings in basements, lying to a Rabbi (lying is a sin in Judaism), and keeping secrets from the one man she could truly be honest with, all while posing as a German Christian woman bent on her own anti-Semitic views of the Jews – her own people, was quite the rollercoaster. It was like she developed her own dual personality, and she also talks about how much she dislikes praying as a Christian woman would, its customs such as Christmas and New Year, and other such things. She ponders where her true self went – her Jewish self, and the constant fact even though she worked for the Reich Government and was protected by one of the highest powers (Reinhard), it was still possible for them to find out that she was Jewish in other ways or means.

**What was one of your favorite scenes from the book?**

I have a few favourite scenes, but I will only give one. When Hertha was giving Reinhard a 'reality-check' in his office because he treated her like a whore in Salon Kitty. She really laid into him, and he knew that he had done wrong for treating her that way, because I made her character become quite animated over it, where she even took on 'Gruppenführer Heydrich' too. Women in those days were seen and not heard (whether they were Jewish or not), so for Hertha to stand up to the behaviour that Reinhard had shown her took courage. Also, I wished to show her reflecting on that had she behaved like that to any other SS officer, she wouldn't have fared so lightly, and have been denounced on account of her behaviour.

**Writing – in any era, not just WW2 – can be difficult at times. What was the greatest challenge you had while writing this book?**

There were a lot of challenges I had. Most of these were when I visited various Holocaust Museums in Australia. One was when I visited the Holocaust Museum in Melbourne to get more of an idea of the Nuremberg Laws, and the Jewish persecution on a whole. I declined a Holocaust Survivor tour guide and was instantly seen as being disrespectful and not wanting to learn. I ended up starting at the end (when Jews were liberated in 1945) and worked my way back to the beginning, and finding some interesting things on my way through, such as the small public research room in the middle of the museum which contained over a hundred folders full of newspaper clippings and files, not to mention the large framed original SS Birth Certificate for Silke Heydrich signed by Reinhard and Lina Heydrich, along with her godparents.

That was really neat to find especially in Australia, because you expect all that stuff to be still in European Holocaust Museums and archives.

**Despite the challenges that we struggle with sometimes as authors, there are also triumphs and joys. Do you have a special high point you can tell us about from the time you've spent writing?**

Yes, I have two. First moment was when all the tears, my frustration and yelling that I couldn't do it accumulated into getting my very first proof paperback copy of my novel '*Hertha's Story*'. When it finally arrived, I kept holding it in my hands staring at it, telling my husband and waving it around: "It's mine! It's my book! I wrote it! It's mine!". I was as proud as punch, because I very nearly gave up so many times, so that moment will always be special for me.

Second moment was with the second book I am currently writing in the series – '*The Gentle Nazi*'. I thought: 'How am I going to write about a man who had such a gentle nature, that on the surface was a cold, hard Nazi, but not make him appear innocent?' I sat for hours on that, and once I started writing, it all flowed out perfectly, the way I wanted it to be and that was a real Eureka! moment for me too. It proved to me that writing '*Hertha's Story*' just wasn't a one hit wonder novel, and that I could really write novels and call myself a published author.

**Do you have a short excerpt from *Hertha's Story* that you can share with the Pages of the Past readers?**

Of course! It is a scene from the difficulties I mentioned in one of the previous questions.

### **December 5, 1941**

Karola and I have been discussing what to do with my pregnancy. I have not written it in here, because I have needed time to comprehend what action to take. She said that because it is still what is defined as an egg, I could abort the pregnancy and that it would pass as a substantial period, and that is what I have decided to do. I feel awful for doing this, but what choice do I have?! Hitler took my freedom from me!! I am a part-Jew, and he cares little for us!! I could not live with myself, denying our child a right to know of its Jewish ancestry. It hurts enough with Anna, and I am determined not to let it happen again!

Telling Reinhard about aborting my pregnancy, I still cannot bring myself to do. I know I must, for he has a right to know as the baby's father. I miss Mama so much, and I prayed for her to help me, but we must continue to fight for her and the others that slip through the net

that we cannot save. So many have been lost already, and I guess this baby will be another.

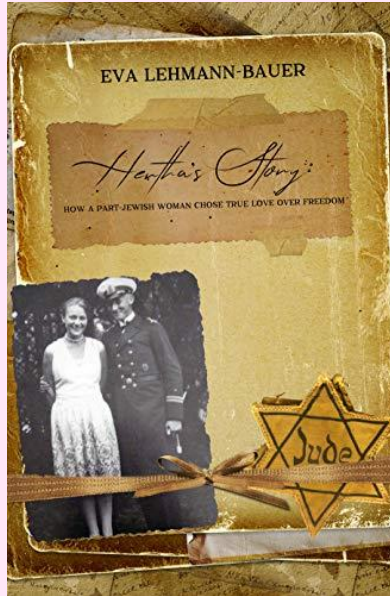
Is what I am doing right? Am I really protecting it from the persecution? Or am I denying myself another chance at motherhood and all those things that were stolen from me with Anna? Many Jews have made it to Palestine, and I am pleased about that. Times like this, I am glad that Heinz is on the Eastern Front away from all this, and I just hope he realises and knows that his own brother is not as feared as people think. But am I being naive or a realist? No one in war is innocent, especially not this one.

I think I shall explore Prague a little more to clear my mind. Reinhard and I do not spend as much time as we used to together, so I have taken to doing things on my own. Just once, I wish we could watch the Swans on the *Moldau River* together again, as it was romantic – much like we used to do in Kiel.

**Is there anything you'd like to share with us that I didn't ask you about?**

All the proceeds from the 'Secrets of the Holocaust' series are donated to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, to maintain the Museum and original buildings of the camp for education, so I don't get any.

Also, I wanted to show in the story that there were people in Hitler's armed forces that really did protect Jews and take full advantage of their high positions in the Reich and gave fleeing Jews everything they needed to flee successfully. It has been documented that Heydrich really did help Polish Jewish fencer Roman Kantor to flee the Soviet occupation zone in 1939, with false papers and money, before protecting him up until his (Heydrich's) death in 1942. He helped a lot of Jews flee Germany under the guise of forced emigration, not to mention having a role in the KinderTransport too, for children fleeing the persecution. Not every German was a Nazi, and not every Nazi was a die-hard Nazi, if that makes sense. I'd like to think that Heydrich was the latter, and that he only appeared to be a die-hard Nazi, when I found that he was actually a neutral – apolitical. People say that that back then, neutrals were on the side of the Nazis, but I'd like to think that it's not true.



**You can find Herta's Story here:**

<http://mybook.to/Herthas Story>

(universal link that takes people to the Amazon Marketplace of their country)

**You can find Eva Lehmann-Bauer here:**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Eva-Lehmann-Bauer-223150595277015/>

Goodreads: [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18767086.Eva\\_Lehmann\\_Bauer](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18767086.Eva_Lehmann_Bauer)

**BIO:** Eva Lehmann-Bauer is an upcoming independent author originally from New Zealand. She writes Historical Fiction from Ancient Egypt's 18th Dynasty, as well as WWII Germany. Eva also writes books on metaphysical/spiritual topics such as Reincarnation and Past Lives from the Jewish Holocaust.

Eva lives in Adelaide, Australia and enjoys spending time in the local museum's Ancient Egypt room to inspire her novels set in Ancient Egypt. She also attends the local small Holocaust Museum occasionally to inspire her WWII novels on how love can overcome hatred. Eva also mentors' people in dealing with past lives and memories from the Jewish Holocaust and Hitler's armed forces, particularly the SS and SD.

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